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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE **EXAMINING GROUP 1765**

PATENT 5298-06500/PM01026

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

Ramkumar et al.

Serial No. 10/010,833

Filed: December 4, 2001

For: METHOD OF FORMING

> SEMICONDUCTOR STRUCTURES WITH REDUCED STEP HEIGHTS

Group Art Unit: 1765

Examiner: DuyVu Nguyen Deo

Atty. Dkt. No. 5298-06500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile or deposited with the U.S. Fostal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O Box

22313, on the date indicated j

March 22, 2004,

Date

AMENDMENT; RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

Box: AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir/ Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 22, 2003 to further highlight reasons why the application is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.